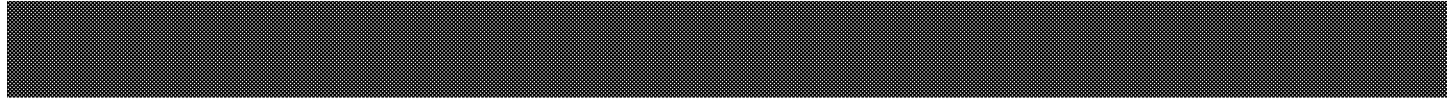


From: Morning Consult [reply@e.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 11/21/2019 1:37:03 PM
To: Walker, Mary [walker.mary@epa.gov]
Subject: Morning Consult Washington: Pentagon Official Indicates Ukraine May Have Known About Hold on U.S. Aid

Morning Consult Washington: Pentagon Official Indicates Ukraine May Have Known About Hold on U.S. Aid



WASHINGTON

By [Eli Yoklev](#)

Top Stories

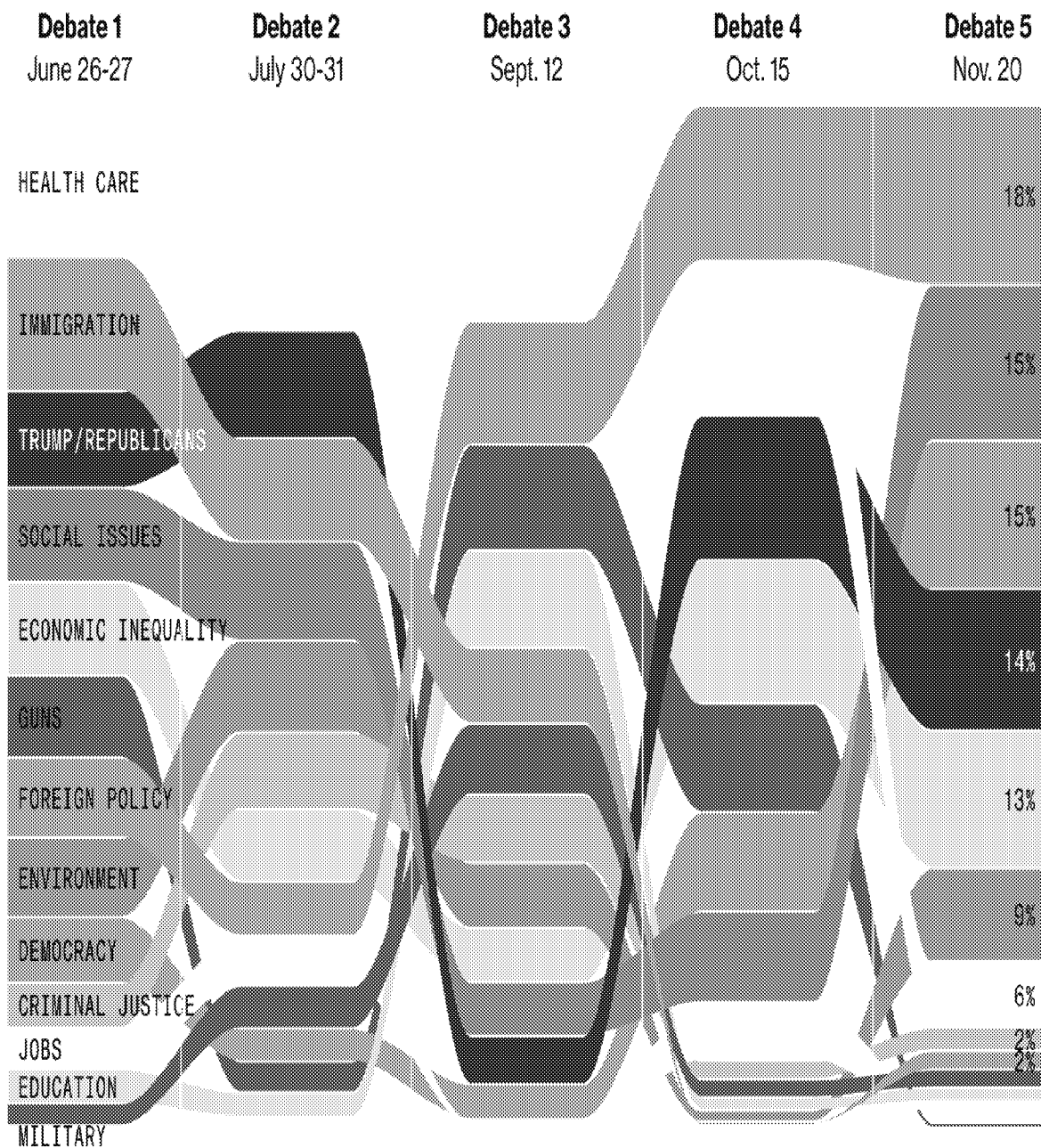
- Laura Cooper, deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Russia and Ukraine, told House impeachment investigators that officials in Ukraine may have known about President Donald Trump's hold on U.S. assistance before it became public in late August, potentially undermining the Republican argument that Ukraine could not have felt pressure to conduct investigations into the president's domestic political rivals. ([Politico](#))
- Fiona Hill, a former European and Russian affairs official on the National Security Council, will accuse lawmakers of echoing Russian propaganda by pushing the "fictional narrative" that Ukraine meddled in the 2016 election, according to her prepared testimony. The testimony appears to take aim at the House Intelligence Committee's top Republican, Rep. Devin Nunes of California, who has questioned impeachment witnesses about alleged efforts by Ukrainians to hurt Trump politically during the 2016 campaign. ([NBC News](#))
- The Senate is set to vote today on a House-passed bill to fund the government through Dec. 20, dropping efforts to change the underlying measure that would have forced the House to take another vote. Eric Ueland, Trump's liaison to Capitol Hill, said Trump "remains on track" to sign the continuing resolution ahead of the midnight shutdown deadline. ([Roll Call](#))

Chart Review

Everything the Candidates Discussed at the Atlanta Debate **Bloomberg**

The issues that dominated each debate

Share of words spoken during the debate



Events Calendar (All Times Local)

11/21/2019

Fiona Hill testifies to House impeachment investigators 9:00 am

Sen. Van Hollen participates in CSIS event on Russia 8:30 am

[View full calendar](#)



New Report: 2019 Holiday Shopping Trends

Our latest economic and U.S. holiday shopping report shows consumers are more optimistic heading into the holiday shopping season than they were in September. [Download our newest data](#) to learn how consumer confidence continues its upward trajectory since bottoming out in mid-August.

General

Prosecutors Subpoena Trump Fund-Raisers Linked to Giuliani Associates

Kenneth P. Vogel et al., The New York Times

Federal prosecutors in Manhattan issued subpoenas in recent weeks to several players in President Trump's fund-raising apparatus as part of an investigation into two associates of Rudolph W. Giuliani who have been charged with violating campaign finance laws, according to people familiar with the investigation. The subpoenas went to a lobbying firm run by a top fund-raiser for Mr. Trump, Brian Ballard, and to two people who have helped raise money for America First Action, a super PAC created to support the president and allied candidates, the people said.

Google to Restrict Political Ad Targeting on Its Platforms

Patience Haggin, The Wall Street Journal

Alphabet Inc.'s Google said Wednesday it plans to stop allowing highly targeted political ads on its platform, further fragmenting the rules being set by Silicon Valley tech giants for guarding against misinformation. Google will roll out the ban within a week in the U.K., in advance of a Dec. 12 general election.

Obama Moves Off Political Sidelines, Earlier Than He Expected

Glenn Thrush, The New York Times

Barack Obama had a plan of sorts for the 2020 presidential primaries, according to several allies and advisers: Stay out of the way, offer advice when asked, promote voting rights, finish a new memoir - then jump back into politics after Democrats picked their nominee. Things haven't worked out like that.

White House & Administration

White House pick to lead NOAA withdraws nomination, citing health concerns

Andrew Freedman and Jason Samenow, The Washington Post

Barry Myers, President Trump's controversial nominee to lead the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has withdrawn from consideration due to health concerns, an administration official confirmed Wednesday evening. Myers' nomination had languished in the Senate since it was first announced in November 2017, due in part to conflict of interest concerns regarding his family's continued ownership stake in AccuWeather, the private weather forecasting company he led until stepping down on Jan. 1.

Judge halts all scheduled federal executions

Josh Gerstein, Politico

A judge has blocked the scheduled executions of four federal death row inmates, effectively freezing the Trump administration's effort to resume imposing the death penalty in a federal system that saw its last execution more than a decade and a half ago. The order issued Wednesday night by U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan halts four executions that U.S. officials planned to carry out starting next month.

Trump hosted Zuckerberg for undisclosed dinner at the White House in October

Dylan Byers and Ben Collins, NBC News

President Donald Trump hosted a previously undisclosed dinner with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook board member Peter Thiel at the White House in October, the company told NBC News on Wednesday. The meeting took place during Zuckerberg's most recent visit to Washington, where he testified before Congress about Facebook's new cryptocurrency Libra.

Trump Blames Beijing for Lagging Trade Talks

Catherine Lucey and Tripp Mickle, The Wall Street Journal

President Trump criticized China's efforts to reach a trade agreement during a visit to a Texas plant where Apple Inc. is assembling its new desktop computer. Mr. Trump toured the Austin facility with Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook on Wednesday as the White House sought to promote job creation and economic growth against the backdrop of a continuing trade war with Beijing.

Threat of Auto Import Tariffs Remains Despite Lapsed Deadline

Josh Zumbrun et al., The Wall Street Journal

President Trump's decision to let a deadline to impose tariffs on foreign auto imports lapse without taking action has left the auto industry puzzled over the White House's next move-which could include restarting

the clock with a new levy action. The president had until Nov. 13 to decide whether to apply the tariffs following a Commerce Department finding that imported vehicles could pose a risk to national security.

Pentagon denies report U.S. mulls pulling up to 4,000 troops from South Korea

Joyce Lee and Phil Stewart, Reuters

The United States on Thursday denied a South Korean news report that it was considering withdrawing up to 4,000 troops from South Korea if it does not pay more for maintaining a 28,500-strong U.S. contingent deterring North Korean aggression. South Korea's Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported that the withdrawal of a U.S. brigade, typically 3,000 to 4,000 soldiers, had been discussed with the top brass of the U.S. military in South Korea, citing an unidentified diplomatic source in Washington.

Trump Floats Tariff Exclusions for Apple at Texas Manufacturing Plant

Ana Swanson, The New York Times

President Trump said on Wednesday that China had not yet made enough concessions to secure a trade deal with the United States and suggested that he might exempt Apple from an upcoming round of tariffs as he toured a Texas plant that assembles Mac Pro computers. Mr. Trump, who was joined in Austin by Tim Cook, Apple's chief executive, repeated his assertion that China was more eager to reach a trade deal than he was and suggested the two sides still remained far apart.

Trump to Convene Meeting on Vaping

Alex Leary, The Wall Street Journal

President Trump is scheduled to meet with vaping-industry and medical officials on Friday, as he considers a ban on flavored e-cigarettes that has stirred opposition. "Participants will include a diverse group of advocacy, industry, non-profits, medical associations, and state officials," the White House said in a statement.

Senate

Trump cozies up to GOP on impeachment - including Mitt Romney and Susan Collins

Burgess Everett, Politico

President Donald Trump is aggressively courting Senate Republicans as impeachment bears down, and on Thursday, he'll come face to face with two of the most unpredictable jurors in any Senate trial: Mitt Romney and Susan Collins. By day's end, the president will have hosted more than 40 Republican senators at the White House since autumn began, mostly for weekly lunches that address a series of issues but also usually include a side of impeachment.

The Senate Has Been Quietly Interviewing People Involved In
The Whistleblower Complaint
Emma Loop, BuzzFeed News

The House impeachment hearings might be getting all the attention these days, but across the Capitol, the Senate has been quietly interviewing witnesses as part of its own inquiry. The Senate Intelligence Committee has in recent weeks interviewed several people as it looks into the handling of the whistleblower complaint at the center of the first impeachment inquiry in more than two decades, committee leadership told BuzzFeed News.

House

Lighthizer, Pelosi meeting Thursday to talk USMCA
Sabrina Rodriguez, Politico

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will meet with Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal (D-Mass.) on Thursday to discuss the USMCA as both sides face increased pressure to strike a deal that would allow for a House vote. Lighthizer will be on Capitol Hill to discuss the remaining roadblocks to passing the NAFTA update, a spokesperson for Pelosi confirmed.

U.S. House passes Hong Kong rights bills, Trump expected to
sign
Patricia Zengerle and Richard Cowan, Reuters

The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday passed two bills to back protesters in Hong Kong and send a warning to China about human rights, with President Donald Trump expected to sign them into law, despite delicate trade talks with Beijing. The House sent the bills to the White House after voting 417 to 1 for the "Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act," which the Senate passed unanimously on Tuesday.

Lev Parnas Helped Rep. Devin Nunes' Investigations
Betsy Swan, The Daily Beast

Lev Parnas, an indicted associate of Rudy Giuliani, helped arrange meetings and calls in Europe for Rep. Devin Nunes in 2018, Parnas' lawyer Ed MacMahon told The Daily Beast. Nunes aide Derek Harvey participated in the meetings, the lawyer said, which were arranged to help Nunes' investigative work.

A Sweeping Cannabis Bill Has Passed A Historic Milestone In Congress

Dominic Holden, BuzzFeed News

Pleas to legalize cannabis have echoed through the US Capitol since at least the 1970s, when pot-smoking hippies in suits started lobbying against prohibition, but comprehensive legalization bills had never passed out of a Congressional committee - until Wednesday. The House Judiciary Committee took a landslide 24-10 vote to approve legislation that would eliminate federal penalties for cannabis, remove conviction records, and invest in communities - particularly communities of color who have been disproportionately hurt by drug enforcement - to ensure they reap a share of legalization's profits.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney wins election to chair House Oversight Committee

Sarah Ferris, Politico

Rep. Carolyn Maloney will become the first woman to lead the House Oversight Committee, vaulting into a high-stakes role as one of the Democrats' top voices in the caucus' impeachment probe. The New York Democrat was confirmed to the post in a caucus-wide secret ballot vote on Wednesday, where she defeated Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.). Maloney received 133 votes while Connolly received 86.

2020

Why Pete Buttigieg got a pass in the debate

Elena Schneider et al., Politico

Pete Buttigieg came into Wednesday night's debate bracing for an onslaught that never came. Yes, Amy Klobuchar and Tulsi Gabbard questioned his experience. Cory Booker dinged the young mayor's resume, pointing out that he's the "other Rhodes Scholar mayor on the stage" and warning voters against picking a Democratic nominee with an

"inauthentic" connection to African American voters - a bloc that has largely ignored Buttigieg's campaign so far.

Bernie Sanders reaches 4 million donations, thanks in part to automatic monthly giving

Michelle Ye Hee Lee, The Washington Post

Sen. Bernie Sanders's campaign has received 4 million individual donations from people across the country, reaching the milestone months earlier than he did during his 2016 presidential run, his campaign said. About one-quarter of donations so far came from online supporters signed up to automatically give money monthly, officials said.

Bloomberg spending \$15M-\$20M to register half million voters
Steve Peoples, The Associated Press

As he moves toward a presidential announcement, New York billionaire Michael Bloomberg is rolling out plans to spend an estimated \$15 million to \$20 million on a voter registration drive designed to weaken President Donald Trump's reelection chances in five battleground states. News of the large investment, confirmed by Bloomberg's team on Wednesday, comes less than a week after the former New York City mayor unveiled a \$100 million online advertising campaign attacking Trump in four general election swing states as well.

Trump campaign, spending furiously to counter impeachment inquiry, assails Facebook over potential changes to political ad rules

Isaac Stanley-Becker and Tony Romm, The Washington Post

The Trump campaign on Wednesday lashed out at Facebook after company executives said they were considering changes to rules around political ads that could affect the campaign's ability to target its supporters on the platform. The outcry came as Trump's reelection team has undertaken a massive spending blitz on Facebook aimed at countering the House's impeachment inquiry.

States

Trump urges Ga. governor to make Collins his US Senate appointee

Greg Bluestein, The Atlanta-Journal Constitution

President Donald Trump pressed Gov. Brian Kemp on Wednesday to appoint U.S. Rep. Doug Collins to an open U.S. Senate, hours after the

Gainesville Republican said he was "strongly" considering a run for the job even if he's not tapped. The call, described by three high-level GOP officials, was part of a dramatic increase in pressure from Collins' allies that raises the possibility of a bitter Republican clash over the race.

In map fight, court blocks candidates from filing for NC congressional seats

Brian Murphy, McClatchy DC

Candidates wanting to run in North Carolina's newly redrawn U.S. House districts may have to wait a bit longer than they thought to file for office. The filing period for candidates running for statewide office in 2020 opens Dec. 2 at noon.

California's top court to decide whether state can force Trump to disclose tax returns

Maura Dolan, Los Angeles Times

California's highest court will decide Thursday whether the state can require presidential candidates, including President Trump, to disclose their tax returns in order to appear on the state's primary ballot. The California Supreme Court, weighing a new state law that requires such disclosures, will rule on a challenge by the California Republican Party.

Advocacy

Uncertain times could bring new lobbying strategies

Kate Ackley, Roll Call

It's hard to imagine a more bonkers, unpredictable and politically toxic backdrop for K Street operators than the current one. But just wait until 2020 actually arrives.

For-Profit Colleges Tap a Fox News Host to Influence Trump

Isaac Arnsdorf, ProPublica

Pete Hegseth, the Fox News personality who urged President Donald Trump to pardon service members charged with war crimes, is trying to influence the White House on another military-related cause. An Army veteran who talks to Trump periodically and has dined with him at the White House, Hegseth traveled to New Orleans in June to address leaders of for-profit colleges at their annual convention.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Democrats Heed Obama's Warning

John F. Harris, Politico

Finally, a year after candidates began announcing, five months after they began televised debates, actual caucus and primary voting is not too far away. This looming reality pervaded both the mood and substance of the latest Democratic presidential showdown, in Atlanta on Wednesday night.

Ambassador Sondland's Revenge

Susan B. Glasser, The New Yorker

On Wednesday morning, an obscure millionaire from Portland who was such an amateur at international diplomacy that one of his colleagues compared him to a car careening down a mountain road without a G.P.S. or guard rails, came as close as anyone has yet to blowing up the Presidency of Donald Trump. Gordon Sondland, a genial hotelier whose million-dollar contribution to Trump's Inauguration committee bought him the ambassadorship to the European Union, did not hold back when he appeared before the House Intelligence Committee's impeachment inquiry.

Research Reports and Polling

2020 House: Assessing the Open Seats So Far

Kyle Kondik, Sabato's Crystal Ball

The 2018 House election cycle was defined by an unusually large number of open seats. The 2020 cycle almost certainly won't feature as many, but there are still more than two dozen so far.



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